

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 17, 2021

The Honorable Lloyd Austin  
Secretary of Defense  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Austin and Secretary Blinken,

We write regarding the fate of Afghan Special Security Forces (ASSF), especially Afghan National Army Special Operations Command (ANASOC) and Kteh Khas elements. As you know, these forces were trained and equipped by American Special Forces to conduct counterinsurgency operations in support of the Afghan Government's security strategy.

Since the fall of Kabul on August 15, 2021, and the subsequent evacuation of at-risk Afghans, the ASSF forces have been in limbo. Most are not eligible for the SIV program. Because of their training and relationships with our Special Forces, former-ASSF forces are at grave risk of Taliban reprisals. We have already received reports of their family members tortured and killed in retaliation.

Their plight deserves urgent attention as they cannot safely return home to Afghanistan. In order to expedite their screening and processing, what personnel and security records has the Department of Defense retained for these individuals from their training, where is it retained, and can this data be shared with the Department of State so they can complete their screening processes?

Furthermore, since many of these individuals may not qualify for SIV status, can the Department of State, following thorough verification and processing, consider these ASSF forces for a P1 or P2 visa, or any other available humanitarian relief? Are there any statutory hurdles that need to be overcome to provide help?

We appreciate your kind attention to these concerns and look forward to your prompt response. We are ready to assist in these efforts to save our Afghan allies who risked so much to ally themselves with us.

Sincerely,



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Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



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Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress